

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-17 are pending. Claims 5 and 10 have been cancelled. Claim 1-8 and 13-16 were rejected. Applicant traverses the rejections. While the Examiner stated that "claims 10-12 and 17" are allowed. Applicant believes that claims 9, 11-12, and 17 are allowed and requests correction.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants admitted prior art (Fig. 3). The Examiner argues that the first and second transmit connection positions correspond to 320 and 322 of Fig. 3 of the specification and that the first and second receive connection positions correspond to 324 and 326 of Fig. 3.

Claim 1 as amended includes a first differential pair and a second differential pair of transmit connection positions in a first direction. This is supported in the specification by having the first differential pair correspond to TXP 320 and TXN 322 of Fig. 4 and second differential pair correspond to TXP 340 and TXN 342 of Fig. 4. Claim 1 has the limitation that the first differential pair and second differential pair of transmit connection positions do not have an interposing ground shield. Fig. 3 of the prior art has an interposing ground shield between the two differential pairs. Hence, the admitted prior art does not anticipate claim 1 and for at least this reason alone claim 1 should be allowable.

Claim 2 as amended includes a first differential pair and a second differential pair of receive connection positions in a first direction. This is supported in the specification by having the first differential pair correspond to RXP 324 and RXN 326 of Fig. 4 and second differential pair correspond to RXP 344 and RXN 346 of Fig. 4. Claim 2 has the limitation that wherein the first and second differential pairs of receive connection positions do not have an interposing ground shield in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction. Fig. 3 of the prior art has an interposing ground shield between the two differential pairs. Hence the admitted prior art does not anticipate claim 2 and for at least this reason alone claim 2 should be allowable.

Claim 3 includes the feature of first, second, third, and fourth transmit connection positions in a direction. This is supported in Fig. 4 of the specification by

for example having TXP 320, TXN 322, TXP 340, and TXP 342 being the first, second, third and fourth transmit connection positions in a direction. Claim 3 has the further limitation that the first, second, third and fourth transmit connection positions do not have an interposing ground shield. As Fig. 3 of the admitted prior art has ground plane 240 between TXN 322 and TXP 340, the admitted prior art does not anticipate claim 3 and for at least this reason alone claim 3 should be allowable.

Claims 4, and 6-8 being dependent upon claim 3 should be allowable of at least the reason claim 3 is allowable.

Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over the admitted prior art in view of Rothermel et. al. (US Patent 6,384,341).

Rothermel discloses a connector footprint for a multi-layer circuit board. FIG. 2 shows rows of differential signal pin pairs 106 in, e.g., rows F and E. As indicated by the dashed circle 112 the differential pairs are staggered [col. 8, lines 18-38]. There are ground pins 102 between the rows of signal pins 104. Ground pins 102, however, do not separate signal pins 104 aligned in rows as coupling is desired between signal pins 104 in a differential pair 106. That is, pin columns alternate between ground pins 102 and signal pins 104 while pin rows are all signal pins 104 or ground pins 102 [col.7, lines 22-37]. Rothermel does not disclose nor suggest whether the differential signal pairs are transmit or receive pairs. Combining Rothermel with the admitted prior art of FIG. 3, gives a row, e.g., 350, having alternating transmit and receive pairs corresponding to a row F of Rothermel. The ground plane 240 of Fig. 3 would correspond to a row of 102s in Rothermel. Thus, unlike claim 13, there is an interposing ground structure between the associated receive connection structures. For example, ground plane 240.

Thus for at least this reason alone claim 13 should be allowable.

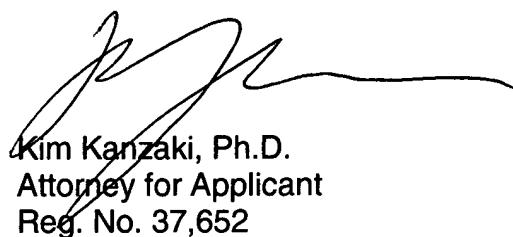
Claims 14-16 being dependent upon claim 13 should be allowable for at least the reason claim 13 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, the applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149 (Pacific Standard Time).

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on November 18, 2004.

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